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**OFFICE OF THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION**

**PUBLIC NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY**

**Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) Enhancement and  
Implementation Supports**

The Office of the State Superintendent of Education, Division of Early Childhood Education (OSSE/ECE) is responsible for coordinating early childhood education services for District of Columbia children and their families.

**Request for Applications:**

The OSSE/ECE seeks assistance to enhance its current Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) program known as *Going for the Gold* Tiered Rates Reimbursement System. *Going for the Gold* allows early childhood programs participating in the OSSE/ECE Child Care Subsidy Program (CCSP) to move through three (3) payment tiers (Bronze, Silver, and Gold). Tiers are based on the degree to which programs meet specific high-quality standards.

Enhancements must address all QRIS components including, but not be limited to, standards, monitoring and accountability, program and practitioner supports; fiscal incentives and family and consumer engagement; solidify QRIS outcomes; identify challenges; and propose revisions that will increase the effectiveness of the current system.

In addition, OSSE/ECE is seeking assistance to develop a wide-range of implementation supports and technical assistance tools to increase program quality and the number of programs moving through the *Going for the Gold* tiers. Emphasis will also be placed on supports that increase the number of nationally accredited programs and increase the number of programs that are able to use the Environment Rating Scales to improve quality. Funds in the amount of \$360,000 are available to award one (1) grant. Forty-six percent (46%) of the funds are made available through District of Columbia appropriated funds and fifty-four percent (54%) of the funds are made available through the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) funding from the *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act* of 2009 from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Children and Families.

Applications are requested from organizations licensed to do business in the District of Columbia with extensive knowledge of national program accreditation standards for all early childhood sectors, relationship-based technical assistance, QRIS models, Environment Rating Scales and the varying needs of early childhood programs in the District of Columbia. Applicants must also have prior experience working with cross-sector early childhood systems, knowledge of the District of Columbia's demographic make-up, and familiarity with the landscape and relevant resources necessary to further the objectives of this grant.

### **Important Dates:**

The RFA will be available on **Friday, August 20, 2010**. Applications may be obtained from the Office of Partnerships and Grants Services website ([www.opgs.dc.gov](http://www.opgs.dc.gov)) at the District Grants Clearinghouse link. Applications may also be obtained from Ms. Lesa Bonds, Administrative Officer for ECE, 717 14<sup>th</sup> Street, NW, 12<sup>th</sup> Floor, Washington, DC 20005. Please call (202) 727-1839. The deadline for application submission is **September 15, 2010** at 3:00 p.m. DST.

The Pre-Application Conference will be held on **Tuesday, August 31, 2010**, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at 717 14th Street, NW, 8th Floor Conference Room, Washington, DC 20005. For preparation purposes, interested parties planning to attend the Pre-Application Conference are requested to RSVP to Ms. Angelia McDuffie at (202) 727-1839 or [angelia.mcduffie@dc.gov](mailto:angelia.mcduffie@dc.gov).